FEAR aka Horror Show

by

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CUNNINGHAM PRODUCTIONS, INC.

DARKNESS

A distant SOUND--
A small girl CRYING, CALLING for help--

SLOW FADE IN:

INT. A BEDROOM -- NIGHT

A breeze moves the curtains slightly--
A BED--
LUCAS McCARTHY is sleeping, dreaming, tossing fitfully--

Beside him, his wife, DONNA, undisturbed, sleeping peacefully--

O.S. the girl can be heard, CALLING--

Lucas wakes up, looks over at Donna--
She's sleeping soundly--

He gets out of bed--
Pulls on pants, shirt and shoes--

DONNA (v.s.)
Lucas...?

LUCAS
Go back to sleep, honey...

He leans [redacted] over her--
She pulls the covers up, already asleep again--
He kisses her--

Goes over to the closet--
HOLD ON THE CLOSET DOOR--
The feeling: There will be something awful behind it when Lucas opens it--

He reaches out for the door--
Opens it--

A Police Special hangs in it's holster--
Lucas opens the door so hard that the gun BANGS LOUDLY against it--

He looks back at Donna--
She stirs in bed, doesn't wake up--

Lucas straps the gun on as quietly as he can--

STAY ON HIM as he moves out of the bedroom--

3 UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Lucas makes his way slowly down the hall--
Stops at a door--
The girl CRIES for help--

He opens the door--

4 BONNIE'S BEDROOM

Teenage girl's bedroom--
Too many posters of cute English bands--
Bonnie, sixteen and cute as all hell, sleeping peacefully--

5 UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

LUCAS

closes her bedroom door--
Moves carefully down the hall to another door--
Opens it--

6 SCOTT'S BEDROOM

Teenage boy's bedroom--
Scott, thirteen, sleeping peacefully on top of his covers--
Walkman headphones clamped over his ears--
HEAVY METAL up so loud we can hear it, LEAKING THROUGH--

LUCAS

Goes over, takes the headphones off his son's ears--
Turns the Walkman off--
Smiles in spite of his nerves--

[redacted]

Now the GIRL'S VOICE can be heard distinctly--

It sounds as if it's coming from downstairs--

7 UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

STAY ON LUCAS

He makes his way out of Scott's room--

Back into the shadowy darkness of the hall--

He moves to the stairs--

8 STAIRS -- LUCAS' P.O.V.

A lot of dark shadows in the cluttered rooms--

CLOSE ON LUCAS

coming down the stairs, cautious--

He takes the gun out of its holster--
Moves into the living room--

ON HIS FEET

Moving through the shadows--

AROUND THE ROOM

It seems big in the darkness--

9 KITCHEN

LUCAS

makes his way to the kitchen--
It seems to take forever--

He opens a drawer, finds a flashlight--
It doesn't work--
He takes out the batteries, finds new ones in the same drawer--

He puts them in as he makes his way back into the living room--

WE STAY TIGHT ON HIM, so that we are never sure what waits in the darkness around him--

10 LIVING ROOM

He comes back into the living room--

SOMETHING CRASHES TO THE GROUND!!!

Lucas whirls--
COSMO, the McCarthy's pet cat, has knocked a vase over--
She looks up from her perch on a shelf--
Down at the destruction--

LUCAS
Damn it, Cosmo.

The cat HISSES at him--

LUCAS
I love you too.

THE GIRL CRIES OUT AGAIN--

Cosmo cocks her head, stops HISSING--

Lucas turns towards where the cat is looking--

11 KITCHEN

Lucas enters quietly--
Pause--

THE CLOSED DOOR TO THE BASEMENT

LUCAS

checks the flashlight--
It works now--

He moves cautiously towards the basement door--

HIS P.O.V.

MOVING CLOSER to that door--

GIRL'S VOICE
(CALLING, OVER)
Help me, mister, please help me.

LUCAS

opens the door--

12 BASEMENT STAIRS

At the bottom of a stairway--
Huge and dark--
Just a flicker of light from the pilot flame of the house's furnace--

He starts down the stairs, guided by the beam from his flashlight--

13 BASEMENT

The usual collection of tools and unpacked junk--
Last year's clothes hang from a drain pipe--
A sled, an old record player, boxes of books--

IT IS VERY SCARY DOWN HERE--
The darkness and the shadows--

[redacted]

GIRL'S VOICE
(CALLING, OVER)
MAKE HIM STOP... PLEASE MAKE HIM STOP!

Lucas is startled--
He drops the flashlight--

The room goes dark--

He bends to look for the light--

Fumbles in the near-darkness for a few moments--

The flashlight seems to have rolled between two stacks of boxes--
Lucas has to reach into a dark gap between stacks--

He does--

THERE IS A LOUD WHOOSH!!!
THE ROOM IS LIT BY THE EERIE LIGHT OF A FULL FIRE, BLAZING IN THE FURNACE--

Lucas forgets about the flashlight--
Turns towards the furnace--

The fire in it is going strong--
Lucas moves slowly towards it--

The girl's voice seems, incredibly, to be coming from inside the furnace itself--

GIRL'S VOICE
(CALLING, OVER)
PLEASE! HELP ME!

LUCAS' P.O.V.

MOVING IN on the flaming furnace--

LUCAS

Sweat is already beading up on his brow--
He sticks his hand out cautiously to the large furnace door--
An AWFUL SIZZLE--

He pulls his hand back from the hot metal--
He's burned himself badly--
He looks around, finds a rag--
He wraps that around his hand and reaches for the furnace door--

He opens it wide--

MOVE TOWARDS THE FLAMES... THEN INTO THEM!!!

AS IF THE FURNACE WERE THE DOOR TO ANOTHER WORLD--

THE CAMERA SNAKES THROUGH THE FLAMES--

UNTIL, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THEM, IT FINDS--

14 EXT. MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT -- NIGHT

A wet night in this barren, soot-covered neighborhood--
It's dominated by a huge black packing plant complex--

There is the dim light of an occasional street lamp--
And the roving beam of a police helicopter--

15 EXT. MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT -- NIGHT

WE PAN THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN A SLOW 360

Past the deserted packing plant--
Past an all night diner, lights on inside--

Until we are back at the furnace door--

It is no longer a door--
It is an alleyway opening on this neighborhood--

Lucas comes running to meet the CAMERA--
He's got his gun out--
He is dressed in the polyester specials of a police Detective--
With him, similarly dressed, is CASEY, his partner--
Casey is older than Lucas, a career cop--
They both look like they're at the end of a long chase--

They look around--

LUCAS
Fuck did he go?

Casey gives a frustrated shrug--

LUCAS
GOD DAMN IT, WE CAN'T LOSE HIM NOW!

Casey nods, takes another look around--
Both of them are tense--

CASEY
Did you call for back-up?

Lucas nods...

CASEY
Maybe you better try again... Tell them we're not shutting off car alarms here!

GIRL
(CALLING, OVER)
He's got me... please help me.

There's fear behind Casey's "cop mask"--

CASEY
Sounds like they're in the diner. You take the fire escape, see if you can get in up top. I'll hit the front door.
(a beat)
You O.K., partner?

Lucas is not O.K.--
Neither is Casey--
They can put on that tough front, but they know they're going up against one very bad man--
Laying their lives on the line--
They know that THIS IS NO GAME!!!

Lucas nods that he's fine--

LUCAS
Hey, fuck the ass-hole. Hour from now, he'll be a corpse, we'll be putting away a couple of Blue Plate Specials at Millie's.

He tries to give Casey a reassuring smile--
Neither one of them believes this--

CASEY
Lucas.....? Don't leave me hanging.

Casey moves quickly across the rain-soaked street--
His gun raised and ready--

LUCAS

hesitates a long moment, watches his partner--

CASEY

veers off into the side-street behind the diner--

LUCAS

takes a deep breath--
He starts down the street on the far side of the diner--

A huge, ghost-like shadow IS silhouetted against the side of the packing plant across the street--

The shadow of an enormous man, dragging a small girl along with him--

Lucas pulls himself back against a wall--

THE GIRL CALLS OUT AGAIN!!!

Lucas spots the fire escape across from him--

His face is determined--
He's not going to let the fear get the best of him--
He pulls himself up--
Starts to climb--

A window opens above the kitchen of the diner--

He tries it--
Locked--
Breaks it with his gun-

It's a long drop to the floor below--

16 INT. DINER KITCHEN

Lucas makes the jump, rolling to the floor--

He lies there a moment, listening--
There is a constant "WHOOSH-CLUMP... WHOOSH-CLUMP"--
It's coming from behind him--

He gets to his feet, his gun raised--
Turns--

A woman's legs stick up out of a HUGE rotating blender--
The ceiling above is splattered with blood--
With each rotation, the woman's shoes hit the blender's upraised lid--
That makes the "WHOOSH-CLUMP... WHOOSH-CLUMP"--

Lucas moves forward without looking--
Turns the blender off--

The legs fall limply inside the drum--

With the NOISE of the blender stopped, a GURGLING SOUND CAN BE HEARD--

Lucas turns again--

The cook's lifeless body--
Doubled over with his head stuffed into a vat of boiling oil--

Lucas bites his lip in horror--
The cook's face sizzles in the oil--
It's been burned to a french fried crisp--

LUCAS
Ah... Jesus...

He can't help but stare--
The WHISTLE and sudden burst of steam from a boiling pressure cooker startles him--
He reels back into--

17 INT. DINER KITCHEN

A CORNER

Where he looks at the hell that is all around him--

He's in shock--
It takes him a moment--

GIRL'S VOICE
(CALLING, OVER)
Help me... please help me...

LUCAS

turns in the direction that the VOICE came from--

CASEY
LUUUUU.....CAAAS.

A HORRIBLE SCREAM that tapers off, ~~leaving only the [redacted]~~.

Lucas WHIRLS towards his partner's scream--
Tries not to look at the carnage around him--

He pushes through the double doors into--

18 INT. THE FRONT DINING AREA

HOLD ON HIS FACE as he SCREAMS--

LUCAS
NO! NO!

HIS P.O.V.

A headless corpse sits at the counter--
His severed head is set on the plate in front of him--
His mouth jammed open and his badge stuffed in it, holding it open and gaping--

IT'S CASEY--
Scrawled in blood on the counter next to the head are the words "Blue Plate Special"--

The headless corpse jerks its final nerve jerks--
The eyelids twitch their last twitches--

LUCAS

stumbles out the front door and into--

19 THE STREET

It's dark--
He pulls his radio out--

LUCAS
This is McCarthy. I've got a ten-thirteen. Officer down. I need additional back-up...

VOICE ON RADIO
What's your exact location?

LUCAS
The packing plant on Collins Avenue... ask the chopper....

He puts his radio back--

That shadow of of the large man appears now at the far side of the yard... as if he were shuffling across it--

He's caught for a moment in the light from the helicopter--

He's huge--
Wearing a long butcher's coat--
The bloody meat cleaver he's carrying catches the light and shines--
His free arm is around a girl--

GIRL'S VOICE
Somebody help me, please help me.

VOICE FROM HELICOPTER
JENKE! DROP YOUR WEAPON AND LET THE BOY GO. THE AREA IS SURROUNDED!

The huge man looks towards the helicopter and the dark sky--

JENKE
KISS MY ASS, MOTHERFUCKER.

He drags the girl into the shadows of the deserted packing plant--

20 EXT. THE MEAT PACKING DISTRICT

LUCAS

Races across the street--
Slips through the hole in the packing plant fence--

There's a GURGLING SOUND--
Lucas turns right into--

A NIGHT WATCHMAN

Pinned to the door with an ice-pick through his adam's apple--
His eyes are open wide--
He tries to talk, but all that comes out is white spittle and the GURGLE--
Jenke's hyena-like LAUGHTER carries over--

[redacted] The girl's PLEADING VOICE--

[redacted]--
[redacted]--
Lucas [redacted] starts into the deserted packing plant after Jenke--

21 INT. PACKING PLANT - CATWALK .

Very dark--
Everything's in disrepair--
Huge, menacing shadows--
Meat hooks and huge vats for rendering fat--
Years of dried blood--

Lucas looks around--
Turns at every noise--

There are metal stairs against one wall--
They lead up to a cat-walk--

GIRL'S VOICE
(CALLING, OVER)
Mister. Help.

Lucas goes up the steps--
Gets his radio back out as he goes--

LUCAS
(whispering)
McCarthy again... where the hell's that back-up...

RADIO VOICE
I need an exact location in order to provide back-up.

LUCAS
THIS IS KLAUS JENKE, LADY! THE FUCKER'S CRAZY. HE KILLED MY PARTNER! HE'S GOT A KID. I NEED PEOPLE, GOD DAMN IT.

He's at the top of the stairs now--
On the catwalk--

LUCAS
GOD DAMN IT!!!

He puts his radio away, starts to walk cautiously down the cat walk--

There is a doorway off to one side--

He passes it, keeps walking slowly--

SUDDENLY, AN ARM SNAKES OUT TO GRAB HIM!!!

He's face to face with Klaus Jenke!!!

Jenke is a huge man--
Hideously ugly--
With a smile that makes his face a death mask of pure evil--

He has whirled Lucas around to face him--
Now he throws him back against the cat-walk railing--

He smiles that death-mask smile now--
Opens his mouth--
And calls out in a perfect girl's voice--

JENKE
(as the girl)
Help me, mister, please help me!

That gash of a mouth lets out his hyena LAUGH--
The copter's beam outside flashes as it moves--
A slow strobe effect--

Jenke raises his sharp, bloody meat cleaver with his right hand--
Sticks the point of it into his left temple--

Still calling "help me, mister, please help me" in the girl's voice, he drags the blade of the cleaver diagonally down across his own face!!!--
Down to the right side of his chin--

Blood oozes from the deep diagonal cut--

Jenke LAUGHS some more--

BELOW THE CAMERA, he seems to be holding the girl by the neck--
A little GIRL in a blue flannel nightgown--

Jenke's eyes look into Lucas'--
He smiles his death-mask smile--

JENKE
How about a little head?

He tosses something round and ball-like at Lucas with his left hand--

LUCAS

fumbles, catching it--
It's the head of a seven-year-old girl--

Her straw-blond hair is full of blood--
Half her face has been hacked away by Jenke's cleaver--

Lucas gapes at the little girl's head in horror--
FIRES at Jenke--

JENKE

is hit in the leg--
He grabs the wound and a SCREAM comes out of him--
It sounds ~~like~~ it's coming from hell--

JENKE
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, KILL ME?
(a beat and then his awful smile)
THERE'S NO FUCKING WAY I DIE!!!

He throws his cleaver at Lucas--

The cleaver cuts deep into Lucas' chest--
He sinks to the ground--

SIRENS WAIL outside--
From below come the SOUNDS of other cops--

Before losing consciousness, Lucas looks up--
Jenke is still grinning that awful grin--
Now he ROARS with his own horrible brand of LAUGHTER--

COME IN CLOSE ON Lucas as he tries to SCREAM--
No sound comes out--
He GASPS--
He can't breathe--

Lucas turns his head away from Jenke--
He is face to face with the girl's head--
Looking right into the vacant, staring eyes--

Lucas starts to pass out--
Darkness closing in--
The girl's head his final image--

FADE TO BLACK.

22 INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Lucas is sitting up, drenched in sweat--
Donna has awakened to his GASPS--

Lucas swings his feet around to the floor--
He reaches for a glass of water on the nightstand--
Gulps it desperately--

Donna sits up in bed--
She puts her arms around him from behind and lays her head against the back of his shoulder--

She looks worried--

23 INT. THE BATHROOM

Lucas washes his face in the sink--
He looks up at his reflection in the mirror--

Nothing awful there--

He opens his pajama top to reveal the long, garishly red scar left in his chest by Jenke's cleaver--

He studies it in the mirror--

There are a few drops of blood along the edge of the scar--
He rubs them away--
Starts for the other room--

24 THE BEDROOM

Donna still in bed--
Lucas comes out of the bathroom--
Puts on his shirt and pants--

Donna watches him dress--

DONNA
Do you really have to see it?

LUCAS
I've got to know.

Donna waits for him to say more--

LUCAS
When I see him die, the nightmares will stop.

He looks at her--
Trying to make her believe that he believes that--

She turns away from him--
Gets something on the nightstand--

WE WAIT for her to turn--
She does--
Still Donna--

DONNA
Don't forget this.

She tosses him his wrist watch--
He catches it--
It hurts him to do it--

HIS RIGHT HAND

is badly burned where he touched the furnace--
But didn't that happen in a dream?--

He stares at the hand for a long, confused moment--
Then he puts on his watch--

CUT TO:

25 EXT. DELTA STATE PENITENTIARY -- [redacted] DAWN

A TV NEWS CREW broadcasts from outside the prison's front gate--

A TV NEWSWOMAN
(on the air)
...we're standing outside the Delta State Penitentiary, where Klaus Jenke, the most feared, mass murderer in this nation's history, is about to be put to death...

A caravan of police cars with flashing blue lights escorts an ambulance through the prison's front gates--

TV NEWSWOMAN
Klaus Jenke -- the former butcher whose one last request was to be buried with his meat cleaver-- the very same cleaver he used to kill most of his 116 victims...

PRISON OFFICIALS and COPS make their way in--
The Newswoman recognizes Lucas among them--

TV NEWSWOMAN
Among those here to witness Jenke's execution is Lucas McCarthy, the [redacted] detective who was responsible for his capture. We're going to try to get a word with him... DETECTIVE McCARTHY...

She pushes her way in towards Lucas--
Sticks the microphone in his face--

TV NEWSWOMAN
Detective... you were involved in the Klaus Jenke investigation from the very beginning... over three years. It must be a great relief to you to see him brought to justice...

LUCAS
Yes, m'am.

TV NEWSWOMAN
Would it be safe to say that you're happy to see Jenke put to death?

LUCAS
I'm happy to see justice served...

TV NEWSWOMAN
The man killed your partner... surely your satisfaction must be more personal than that...

LUCAS
No comment...

He and the other cops start to push through the crowd--

TV NEWSWOMAN
Detective... you've were wounded on the night of Jenke's apprehension... You've been on a leave of absence since then. Are you feeling better?

LUCAS
Yes... thank you...

TV NEWSWOMAN
Will you be going back on duty soon then?

LUCAS
No comment...

He makes it past the TV Newswoman--
Goes inside--

TV NEWSWOMAN
Lucas McCarthy, the man who captured Klaus Jenke...

CUT TO:

26 INT. THE PRISON -- ON DEATH ROW

All of the condemned prisoners are awake--

Several heavily-armed GUARDS are outside one cell--
A GUARD steps slowly out of this cell, into the hallway--
His shotgun is shouldered and aimed back into the cell--

ANOTHER GUARD appears, backing into the hallway in similar fashion--

THEN KLAUS JENKE EMERGES...

DISSOLVE TO:

27 PRISON

VARIOUS ANGLES - ON JENKE

Handcuffed and manacled--
Led through the prison on several tightly held leashes--

Other PRISONERS retreat to the back of their cells as he passes--

It's clear from the looks on their faces that even they'll sleep better when he's dead--

Half a dozen GUARDS, all armed with rifles and itchy fingers, keep him in their sights--
He's dragged down into the bowels of the prison--

CUT TO:

28 THE EXECUTION ROOM - VARIOUS ANGLES

The electric chair is inside a small, concrete "death chamber" that sits isolated in the center of a larger room--

Jenke is brought in--
He's led past [redacted] a dozen nervous WITNESSES--

We FOCUS on Lucas--
INTERCUT HIS REACTIONS & P.O.V. throughout the rest of the scene as--

Jenke is shoved into the electric chair--
He's tied down with thick leather straps--

The prison BARBER steps into the death chamber--

He's got a crude-looking shaver--
He carves two ugly, bare patches of skin, on either side of the killer's skull, for the electrodes--

He starts to rip open Jenke's prison trousers--
Along the inseams up to his thighs--

Jenke kicks out at him violently--

Guards descend upon him, swarming--

INTERCUT:

29 THE ELECTRIC TRANSFORMER CONSOLE

Outside the death chamber--
An ELECTRICIAN activates the equipment that's about to send 50,000 volts of death into Klaus Jenke--

30 EXECUTION ROOM

With Lucas looking on--

INTERCUTTING FASTER NOW

The clock on the wall is closing in on six A.M.--

The witnesses stare and fidget uncomfortably--

Several lethal wires and electrodes are pinned to Jenke's skull and body--

THE WARDEN

looks at the electrician-

The guy nods--

WARDEN
Any last words, Jenke?

JENKE
EAT MY BLOODY FUCK!

He hits the warden's white suit with a well-aimed stream of tobacco-brown spit--

One of the guards rushes in to throw a white burlap hood over the condemned man's head--

The warden steps back, ignoring the slime on his suit--

The electrician turns on the juice--
Gets ready to throw the switch on Jenke--

The transformer shakes with pent-up electricity--

The witnesses sweat and breathe hard as the tension builds--

Jenke seems to stare at them though the burlap hood has no eye-holes, only X's stitched into the fabric where the eyes would be--

The warden signals for the electrician to throw the switch--

The electrician throws the switch and the first surge of power enters Jenke's body--

He twitches violently for several moments--
Then he begins to LAUGH--
Almost as if he's immune to the charge--

JENKE
(through the hood)
Hey, you sacks of puss. Don't you got anything hotter!

Beneath the hood his wild eyes seem to search the room--

The warden signals--
A second surge of electricity shoots into Jenke's body--

He twitches and screams, but still refuses to die--
Once again, he starts to LAUGH--

He stops facing in Lucas' direction--
Seems to recognize him, by sense or instinct, despite the hood--
He sneers--

JENKE
Hey, cop... You come here looking for your balls or what?

The electrician gets a signal from the warden--
Gives Jenke a third jolt--

With each new surge in power, the lights dim momentarily--

The hot electrodes burn deep into Jenke's skin--
His flesh begins to smoke--

But still Jenke refuses to die--

Blood from his ears, nose and mouth begins to soak through the white burlap hood--

JENKE
YOU CAN'T KILL ME! THERE'S NO FUCKING WAY I DIE!!!

IT'S A SCREAM FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL!!!

The warden shoots a look at the electrician--

The smell is overpowering--
Several witnesses faint--
Others turn away and cover their noses--

Lucas stands stoically, staring--

The electrician ups the output gain--
Gives Jenke a last jolt--

Jenke's body arches violently--
But even with the smoke from his burning flesh filling the chamber--

JENKE
(STILL LAUGHING)
... y'ain't seen the last of me!

The final jolt hits him--
His LAUGH turns into a SCREAM--

JENKE
AAAAHHHGH!!!

BLACK OUT.

With his last fatal SCREAM reverberating over--

CUT TO:

31 DR. TOWER'S OFFICE

CLOSE UP

Lucas' bandaged hand stirring a cup of coffee--

DR. TOWER
(O.S.)
Don't you think we ought to talk about something, Lucas?

There's no answer--
Lucas brings the coffee cup to his lips--
AS WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL

32 DR. TOWER'S OFFICE

Lit in high-contrast light and shadow--
A view of the city skyline through the office's louvered windows--
[redacted]

DR. TOWER
Do you want to talk about Jenke?

LUCAS
He's dead. Fuck him.
(a beat)
I want to talk about my burned hand. How the fuck can I burn my hand and not even know I did it?

DR. TOWER
Are you Catholic?

Lucas does a double-take--

DR. TOWER
[redacted] If you were, it might be Stigmata instead of burns.

LUCAS
Stigmata?

DR. TOWER
The wounds of Christ on the cross. Saints bleed from them. So do cops once in a while. I had an Irishman last year, bled from the palms, the feet, the side, every time he shot somebody.
(a beat)
That "burning" is a more serious manifestation of the same guilts that are giving you the nightmares.

LUCAS
[redacted]. You're saying my guilt burned me...?

DR. TOWER
In a manner of speaking, yes...

LUCAS
That's the stupidest fucking thing I ever heard.

DR. TOWER
[redacted]
You want to tell me how you burned your hand, then?
(a beat)
Listen to me... Cops are supposed to be afraid. It comes with the job. The only cops who aren't scared are dumb or dead.

LUCAS
I should have been quicker. If I had been Casey might still be alive. I was scared. I screwed up.

DR. TOWER
If you want to look at it that way. You can also see yourself as a hero. Like they said in the papers.

Dr. Tower looks at Lucas--
Lucas doesn't seem reassured--

He's quiet--
It takes him a few moments, then he says it again--

LUCAS
I was scared shitless.

DR. TOWER
What the hell's the problem with that? Jenke was one scary bastard. Thanks to you he's dead.
(a beat)
You've got your sick leave... take a vacation. Put this thing behind you.

LUCAS
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? RUN EVERY TIME I HAVE A BAD DREAM.

It takes him a moment to calm down--

LUCAS
Just give me something so I can get some sleep.

DR. TOWER
(sounding resigned)
I'll write you a prescription.

[redacted]
He writes out a prescription--

DR. TOWER
This should help.

[redacted]

He tears the prescription form from the pad--
Hands it to Lucas--

Takes his prescription--
[redacted]
His hand is trembling--

CUT TO:

33 INT. THE MCCARTHY'S KITCHEN -- DAY

Donna is putting cat food in Cosmo's dish--
BLARING ROCK AND ROLL comes from upstairs--
Something METAL--
About Death stalking the land--

The DOORBELL RINGS--

Bonnie YELLS from the front hall--

BONNIE
(SCREAMING, OVER)
HEY WORM! GET THE DOOR. I'M ON THE PHONE!

Donna has the cat dish full--
She comes into the front hall, carrying it--

34 INT. FRONT HALL

Scott tears by her--
Answers the door--
There's a UPS man there--
He's got a large cardboard box--

UPS
Scott McCarthy?

Scott smiles and nods--

UPS
Sign here...

Scott signs..

35 FRONT HALL - BY THE PHONE

Bonnie has her back to her mother--
Doesn't know she's there--

BONNIE
(into the phone)
"Leave a message at the beep"? Where are you, Vinnie? Vinnie, it's me, your love slave...
(sensing her mom behind her)
O.K., Mary Anne... if I have any more trouble with the geometry homework, I'll call again... thanks.

She hangs up.

DONNA
Who was that?

BONNIE
Mary Anne.

DONNA
Mary Anne got a three day growth? Kind of look like Don Johnson?

BONNIE
Mom...

DONNA
I don't want anybody over here while we're out.

BONNIE
Mom. I'll be seventeen on Saturday.

DONNA
Exactly what I was going to say.
(subject closed)
Have you seen Cosmo? I haven't seen her all day.

Bonnie shakes her head, sulking--

Scott starts by them--
Going back upstairs with his box--

DONNA
Who was that at the door, honey?

SCOTT
It's O.K.. It was for me.

and he's gone before she can ask him anything else--

She turns back to her daughter--
Tries to smile, make things friendly--

Bonnie doesn't smile back--

Donna looks around--
The basement door is slightly ajar--

DONNA
Maybe she's got herself stuck in the basement.

[redacted]

She turns for that door--

36 MOVE IN ON THE BASEMENT DOOR

Donna starts for it--
She reaches out, opens the door--

THE DARK, GAPING MAW OF THE--

37 BASEMENT

Donna starts down the stairs--

WE STAY CLOSE ON HER--
[redacted]

DONNA
Cosmo...? Cosmo... Here kitty.

She comes down into the basement--
A pilot light burns in the furnace--
It lights the basement with a grim flicker--

She walks around--
Calls the cat--
Reaches up to poke among boxes--

She turns to look at the far side of the room--
Her back is to the clothes hung on the drain pipe--
Not a place we want her to stand--

She sees something--

Droplets of something form a trail on the ground--

DONNA
(tentative, scared of what she's about to find)
Cosmo...?

She follows the trail to a spot in front of the furnace door--

She bends down to touch the spot, see what it is--
Her hand comes up sticky--
Like it could be blood--

DONNA
Cosmo...?

THE FURNACE FIRE LEAPS UP HIGH!!!

Donna catches her breath, almost screams--
She looks at the now raging fire--
Down at the little puddle in front of her--

She reaches to turn the fire down--
Pulls her hand back sharply at the heat--
Finds a rag (the same one Lucas found in his dream)--
Turns the flame down--

MOVE AWAY FROM HER--
To the clothes hanging on the pipe--
Winter coats that almost hit the floor--

And a pair of men's shoes!

They jut out from behind the clothes--

DONNA

Doesn't notice--
Finishes with the furnace and starts upstairs--

CUT TO:

38 INT. SCOTT'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Scott is unpacking the cardboard box he got from UPS--

He smiles as he unpacks three smaller boxes--
Each one full of cartons of Nestle's Quick--

Donna comes in--
His back is to her, so she doesn't see what he's unpacking--

DONNA
Have you been down in the basement today?

SCOTT
(shaking his head)
Nope...

DONNA
You sure...

SCOTT
Yeah, why?

DONNA
I can't find your sister's cat anywhere... and there's something down there, by the furnace. It looks like blood.

Scott turns to look up at his mom--

SCOTT
Maybe she caught a mole or a dog or a small child or something.

DONNA
Scott damn it, I'm trying to talk to you! You didn't... do anything to the cat... did you?

SCOTT
No, why?

DONNA
Because she's in heat and I've been looking all over the house for her! And I try to talk to you and all I get is smart answers.

SCOTT
Well I didn't let her out. Talk to Bonnie... it's her cat.

DONNA
I know you and Bonnie haven't been getting along, Scott. Maybe this is your way of showing you're angry.

SCOTT
Mom, you've been listening to too much talk radio... Maybe the cat just left.

Donna can see all the Nestle's Quick now--

DONNA
What the hell is this?

SCOTT
Nestle's Quick. Two cases of chocolate, one of strawberry.

DONNA
Do you mind telling me how you think you're going to pay for that?

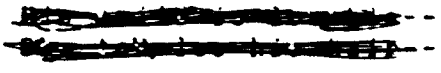
SCOTT
It's free. They sent it to me.

DONNA
Why?

SCOTT
Because I wrote and told them I found rat hair in my last carton of their otherwise delicious product.

He smiles at her--
She pulls herself together a bit--
Realizes she's gotten too angry--

DONNA
(shaking her head)
...Scott...



DONNA
Could you do one thing for me, honey? Could you try to get along with your sister at least through her birthday party?

SCOTT
I got to be nice all the way to tomorrow? Jeeeeesus!

The kid is a charmer--

CUT TO:

39 PARKING LOT -- DAY

Lucas comes out of the elevator--
He starts across the parking lot for his car--

He gets to it--
Puts the key in the lock--
Fumbles, drops the key--

He bends to pick it up--

BUM
(o.s.)
Hey, good looking...

Lucas WHIRLS--
Comes face to face with an evil looking BUM--
The bum has also bent down for the keys--
He gets them--
Hands them to Lucas--

They both get up--

BUM
How about a hand, buddy?

Lucas reaches in his pocket--
Gives the bum some change--

The bum looks at the change--

Lucas is already unlocking his door--
He gets in--
The bum's hand comes down on the window--
His face stares at Lucas through the windshield--

BUM
Don't you got any folding money?

Lucas puts the car in reverse--
Doesn't want to deal with this guy any more--

BUM
You fuck!

The car moves backwards--

The bum SCREAMS--

He collapses to the cement--

LUCAS

stops the car--
Gets out--
Goes over to the crumpled form--

The bum lies with his back to Lucas, whimpering--

Lucas reaches out to touch him--
See how badly he's hurt--

The bum's hand shoots up as he WHIRLS!!!

Grabs Lucas by the throat in a hard grip--
Stands straight up--
Lucas starts to choke--

BUM
How about some folding money, dick nose?

He's not hurt at all--
Lucas turns--
Throws the guy's arm off him--
He's a street cop--
He's had enough of this clown--

LUCAS
HOW ABOUT I PUNCH YOUR FUCKING LIGHTS OUT?.

He takes the bum's arm and bends it behind him--
Leans him against the next car--

LUCAS
How about I take you in for panhandling right now?

BUM
You're a cop? Well fuck me where I live.

Lucas pushes the guy away, gets in his car--

CUT TO:

40 INT. THE BATHROOM -- DAY

ECU -- DONNA'S EYE--

With the lid pulled out and an eyeliner pencil slowly marking the inner lid--
HOLD, WATCHING THIS, THEN--

BONNIE
(o.s.)
Mom...?

The pencil jerks--

PULL BACK AS:

Donna draws a line down her cheek with the eye-liner--

She's at the bathroom mirror, putting on her make-up--

DONNA
You scared me, honey.

Bonnie is in the doorway--
She's in her underwear--

BONNIE
Sorry.
(a beat)
Where's Daddy taking you?

DONNA
I don't know. I told him it had to be someplace where cops don't eat.

She smiles at her daughter--

BONNIE
Have you seen my white dress?

DONNA
Why do you want it...?

BONNIE
I just want to see if it still fits...

Donna doesn't buy that--

DONNA
You're not dressing up for company?

BONNIE
(that fed-up teenage SIGH)
I just want to see if it still fits.

Donna hesitates a moment--
She wants to say something to her daughter--

DONNA
I don't want Vinnie in the house when we're not home!

BONNIE
(another fed-up SIGH)
I just want to see if the dress fits... for the party...

DONNA
Vinnie's twenty, ~~honey~~. Boys that age want... a lot from a girl.

BONNIE
I should hope so!

DONNA
(giving up)
It's probably still in the basement.

Bonnie nods--
She starts away--
Then turns--

BONNIE
Did Cosmo ever show up?

DONNA
I'm sure she's out on the make, ~~honey~~. We've got to get her fixed.

BONNIE
Not before she has one litter. You promised.

She turns for the hall--
Donna goes back to her face--
Wipes the streak of eye-liner off her cheek--

CUT TO:

41 EXT. THE HIGHWAY -- [redacted] DUSK

Lucas drives [redacted] out of the city--
[redacted]--

There is a flash of light in his rear view mirror--
The kind of flash a piece of metal would make, catching the last rays of the sun--

Lucas glances into his mirror--
A sharp glance--

Nothing--

CUT TO:

42 INT. THE BASEMENT

Bonnie is at the bottom of the stairs--
She looks around--
There is only the pilot going in the furnace now--
She starts for the clothes on the pipe--

[redacted]--

HER P.O.V.

MOVING TOWARDS THE CLOTHES--
The feet are [redacted] there--
[redacted]-- (no longer)

Bonnie gets to the clothes--
Reaches to move them on the pipe--

A HAND GRABS HER!!!

She is pulled in among the clothes--
Before she can scream, a mouth is placed over hers in a big kiss--

The cheek that goes with that mouth is gruff--
Unshaved--

Bonnie struggles--
She pushes herself free--

BONNIE
God damn it, Vinnie.

VINNIE is the guy who grabbed her--
Twenty--

It's just the three day growth, he doesn't look that much like Don Johnson--
He tries to kiss her again--

BONNIE
You were'nt supposed to be here 'til eight.

VINNIE
I couldn't wait. I was overcome by desire.

He tries to kiss her again--
She likes him, you can see it in her smile--
But she pushes away--

BONNIE
My parents aren't gone yet.

VINNIE
No problem. They won't be able to hear us down here.

He starts fondling her, his hands slowly moving all over her body, slipping under her clothes--
Bonnie leans her head back, closes her eyes, takes a deep breath, shivers slightly--

Then pushes him away again--

BONNIE
My dad's not even home.
(a smile)
Wait here. I'll come back as soon as they're gone.

He makes a pouty face--

BONNIE
Promise...

She kisses him--
He tries to grab her--
She pulls away--
Takes a white dress from the drain pipe--

BONNIE
It gets better the longer you wait.

VINNIE
Bigger, anyway...

She walks back towards the stairs--
Her feet through the spot of what might be blood--

HOLD THERE--

The SOUND of her footsteps FADES as she goes up the stairs--

CUT TO:

43 EXT. THE HIGHWAY -- DUSK

Lucas still driving--
[redacted]--

Another glint of something in the mirror--
He looks up--
Nothing--
But faint SOUNDS that could be Jenke's harsh LAUGHTER--

Another glint!!!

Another glance up at the mirror--
It's like a double-take--
Trying to catch whatever's being reflected--

Nothing--
[redacted]--

He turns back to the road--

THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD

There is a HITCHHIKER up ahead--

LUCAS

watches the guy--

THE HITCHHIKER

Turns with Lucas--

IT'S JENKE, SMILING HIS AWFUL SMILE!!!

44 EXT. THE HIGHWAY

LUCAS

is startled--

He swerves into the next lane--

A TRUCK

passes him on the right--
The driver HONKS--

LUCAS

looks up--

JENKE

is driving the truck--

[redacted]--

LUCAS

shakes his head--
Trying to get these visions out--

THERE IS ANOTHER GLINT OF LIGHT--

Lucas looks in his mirror again--

JENKE IS IN THE BACK SEAT, REFLECTED IN THE MIRROR--
He smiles at Lucas--

Lucas swerves the car--
Looks at Jenke in his mirror--
WE SEE the side of his face and Jenke's reflection--

LUCAS

is trying to hold himself together--
This can't be fucking happening!!!

JENKE
(his own ugly growl)
I'm gonna wear you down, fuck with you and yours. I'm gonna rip your world into little pieces.

He raises the cleaver--
The GLINT OF LIGHT is blinding--
He LAUGHS--

Lucas keeps one hand on the wheel, reaches back, trying to hit Jenke--

HIS HAND PASSES RIGHT THROUGH THE MURDERER'S BODY!!!

Lucas looks in the mirror--

No Jenke--

45 EXT. THE HIGHWAY

THE DEEP HORN OF A SEMI!!!

THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD

Lucas has swerved into the oncoming lane--
He's heading straight for a big rig--

He pulls the wheel--
Gets back in his lane just in time--
The BLARE of the truck horn FADES down the highway--

He pulls over to the side of the road--
Stops the car--
Puts his head down on his arms, on the wheel--

Looks up in the mirror--

Nothing--

WE HOLD ON HIS FACE--
With the heart, BEATING--

CUT TO:

46 EXT. McCARTHY HOUSE -- NIGHT

A menacing wind blows through the yard--

47 INT. THE BATHROOM

Donna is at the bathroom sink--
A GURGLING SOUND comes from the shower--
She moves to see what it is--

IN THE SHOWER

Something brackish and sewage-like bubbles up out of the drain--

Donna bends to investigate--

48 INT. SCOTT'S BEDROOM

MOVING TOWARDS HIM--
He's got his headphones on--
Eyes closed--
Playing his electric guitar--
Scott leans back in his chair--
There's a poster for "Killed by Death", the Motorhead album, behind him--

49 INT. BONNIE'S BEDROOM

MOVING TOWARDS HER--
She sits on the edge of her bed--
Reaches underneath--
Brings out a secret box--
Opens it--

She's got a packet of condoms--
She smiles, lifts up the packet--

There is a huge, nasty spider under them--
It crawls onto her hand--
She starts, Shakes the spider off--
Throws down the packet--

The spider runs across the room--
She picks up a shoe--

50 INT. THE BASEMENT

Vinnie is behind the clothes--

He starts out--

THE FURNACE COMES ON STRONG--
Vinnie looks at it, startled--

VINNIE
What the fuck?

The furnace door opens--

He grabs the rag, closes it--

VINNIE
Weird... way fucking weird...

51 INT. THE BATHROOM

Donna turns the hot water on--
Sloshes it towards the slime without touching it--

52 EXT. MCCARTHY HOUSE

As Lucas drives up--

53 INT. THE BATHROOM

Donna is bent down--
Water running hard--
Her hand right near the slime--

A CRACK! LOUD AND SHARP!

Slime spurts up in a little splash--

Donna catches her breath--
Startled, she turns away from the shower--

RIGHT INTO SOMEBODY!

She lets out a little GASP!!!

LUCAS

has come in--
He's distracted--
Thinking about his drive home--

LUCAS
You left the front door unlocked..

DONNA
(still rattled)
I didn't leave the door open...

LUCAS
Skip it.

A beat--

There's a GLURP from the shower drain as the slime sucks back down--

DONNA
Lucas, we've got to get a plumber out. The pipes are backing up. This God damned house...

A very thin crack runs out from the drain--

DONNA
Look at this. There's so much gunk in those pipes, it's backed up and cracked the tub.

LUCAS
There's a tank in the basement. I'll check it out tomorrow.

He sounds beat--
She finally looks up at him--

DONNA
You all right?

He shrugs--
She comes over--
Hugs him--

DONNA
Was it awful?

Lucas nods--

DONNA
Well, at least now it's over.

LUCAS
Yeah...

He looks past her--
To the tub--

HIS P.O.V.

That little crack in the tile--

CUT TO:

54 INT. A FANCY RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

Lucas and Donna are having dinner--
He's distracted, miles away--
He pokes at his food, not talking--
She watches--

DONNA
We've got to do something about the house, Luke.

LUCAS
I'll take a look at the plumbing tomorrow...

DONNA
It's not just the plumbing. It's the whole place.

LUCAS
What do you mean?

DONNA
It's too drafty, for one thing... and the heat. That furnace is out of control. It's either freezing or it's hot as hell...

LUCAS
Can't afford storm windows on sick pay. As soon as I go back on the job...

He stops on that--
Rubs his hand--
She watches him--

DONNA
What did Dr. Tower say?

LUCAS
He said I was so guilty about Casey I was making my nightmares real.

He says that like he thinks it's dumb as hell--

She watches him--

DONNA
Luke...

He just stares ahead--

She hesitates a long moment--
This is hard for her--

DONNA
You were on the Jenke case for almost three years. Nothing's been normal since. The kids need us. They're growing up so fast. Bonnie's got a twenty year old boyfriend. She's keeps condoms in a box under her bed. She thinks I don't know about them. Scott's almost a young man... They need a father...

She takes his hand--

DONNA
This thing's getting to all of us, Luke. We haven't made love since the night you caught Jenke. It's tearing us apart.

He knocks his glass over--
Spills some wine--
He mops it up with his napkin--
Looks up at her--

LUCAS
That's what Jenke said... That he was going to tear us apart.

DONNA
Damn it, Lucas.

He just stares at the slab of meat in front of him on his plate--

CUT TO:

56 INT. STAIRS

Bonnie comes down the stairs--
She's made herself up--
She looks cute and sexy in her white dress--

LAUGHTER comes from downstairs--

She stops, facing the living room--

57 INT. LIVING ROOM

VINNIE AND SCOTT

are on the couch--
Scott has a notebook out--
He reads to Vinnie--

SCOTT
"Dear sirs... I am the mother of three and a long time user of Cream 'O Wheat cereal. My children love it as much as I do. Imagine my shock when I opened a box of your product this morning and found what I could only take to be the droppings of some small animal (let us hope it wasn't a rat!) in with the wheat. I felt that I should call this to your attention and let you know that one loyal Cream 'O Wheat family is thinking seriously of switching to Quaker Oats. Yours, Mrs. Janet Harper."
(he turns, seeing Bonnie)
Hey, babe...

BONNIE
What're you guys doing?

VINNIE
Scott's showing me how I can have free food delivered to my home.

BONNIE
"Son of Hero Cop arrested in Mail Order Fraud Scandal". I'm looking forward to that headline.

SCOTT
Don't be so respectable...

VINNIE
(cracking up)
That's good... respectable.

BONNIE
I mean it, Scott... You're gonna get caught...

Vinnie leans back on the couch, reaches for her--
He's dirty from the basement--
Dust from the clothes and grime from his fall--

BONNIE
You're filthy...

VINNIE
I'm gonna try to be...

BONNIE
Why don't you go upstairs and take a shower...
(with a smile)
Make it a quick one... They only went out for dinner... I'll bring you a robe...

Vinnie smiles--
Gets up--

VINNIE
I'm there already.
(to Scott)
Thanks for the lesson, buddy..

SCOTT
No problem.

Vinnie goes up the stairs--

BONNIE
You trying to mess me up with Vinnie? Now he thinks my little brother's a crook...

SCOTT
That'll make up for dad being a cop.
(a beat)
I like him. He's a good guy...

He gets up, turns on the T.V.--

BONNIE
Now what do you think you're doing?

SCOTT
Hey, have a heart. I have to get my "Cagney and Lacey" fix...

BONNIE
C'mon, Scott..

SCOTT
Oh... I get it. You guys want to be alone... You better be careful. Dad finds him he's gonna kick his ass.

BONNIE
I know...

CUT TO:

58 INT. THE BATHROOM/SHOWER

Vinnie slips out of his clothes--
His hand turns on the hot water--
Reaches in to check it--
Adds a little cold--

He gets in the shower--

He lathers--
Gets his hair wet--

The water pours down hard on him--
Runs down into the drain--
And into the thin little crack--
[redacted]--

59 LIVING ROOM

Bonnie and Scott are still going at it--
Their banter gets friendly as it continues--

SCOTT
O.K. I'll be in my room, but not because you want me to. I've got to write a letter to Sarah Lee.

BONNIE
You're gonna get in trouble, Scott.

SCOTT
I'm a minor. What are they going to do? Make me give back my Cinnamon Buns?

She smiles--

SCOTT
Did your cat show up yet?

BONNIE
Uh uh.

They've reached the top of the stairs--
They can hear the SHOWER running--

He starts for his room--

BONNIE
(affectionate)
Thanks, Worm.

SCOTT
I promised Mom I'd be nice to you until your birthday. But after tomorrow, your ass is mine.

He gives her one of those "finger pistol" goodbyes--
Goes into his room--

She heads for her bedroom--
Smiles as she passes the shower--

60 INT. THE SHOWER

Vinnie has his eyes closed--
His face to the water--

He turns to rinse his back--

THE BRACKISH SLIME

GURGLES up out of the drain--
Just a little ooze--

61 INT. BONNIE'S BEDROOM

She slips out of her dress--
Smiles, getting ready for Vinnie--

That smile drops off her face when she hears the SOUNDS of a car pulling up in the driveway--

She looks out the window--

62 THE DRIVEWAY -- HER P.O.V.

Lucas and Donna pull into the driveway--

BONNIE

Pulls her dress back on--

Runs to the hall and to--

63 THE BATHROOM

Bonnie opens the door--
Sticks her head in--

The room is full of steam--

BONNIE
Vinnie, get dressed, my parents are home.
She backs out and closes the door--

67 UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Bonnie runs for Scott's room--

68 SCOTT'S BEDROOM

He's on top of his bed--
Headphones on--
Guitar across his lap--
His eyes closed--

He JUMPS as she shakes him--
Startled--

He takes off the phones--

BONNIE
Worm, you've got to help me...

Scott shuts his stereo off while Bonnie continues in a frantic rush--

BONNIE
Mom and Dad just pulled up and Vinnie's still in the shower.

SCOTT
(the Dragnet theme)
Dum dah dum dum...

BONNIE
Go downstairs. Talk to them. Keep them down there 'til I can get Vinnie out their bedroom window.

SCOTT
What do I talk to them about...?

The SOUNDS of a key in a lock--
Of Lucas and Donna coming in--

DONNA
(from downstairs)
Kids?

BONNIE
(frantic)
I don't know... Please, Worm!

SCOTT
(getting up)
I could see if they want a glass of Strawberry Quick...

BONNIE
Thanks, Scott...

She hurries back out--
Goes to--

69 THE BATHROOM/SHOWER

The shower is still running--

BONNIE
GOD DAMN IT, VINNIE, THIS ISN'T A JOKE.

No answer from the shower--

BONNIE
WILL YOU GET OUT OF THERE.

She goes to to the shower--

Pulls back the curtain sharply--

70 THE SHOWER

[redacted]--
There is just that hair-line crack--

And a small hint of brackish ooze--
It GURGLES once and is sucked back down the drain--

BONNIE
Vinnie? VINNIE.

There is a small window in this shower--

71 LIVING ROOM

Scott talks to his parents--

SCOTT
So, how was dinner?

A chipper tone that makes his mom suspicious right away--

DONNA
Fine. Where's your sister?

SCOTT
... I don't know. Upstairs trying on clothes for her party or some girl thing... Where'd you go, anyway?

72 HALL CLOSET

Lucas opens the hall closet--

CLOSE ON HIS HAND

as he pulls a hanger out--

ON THE OTHER CLOTHES

hanging there in the closet--

ON THE HANGER

as he puts Donna's coat on it--
Pulls other clothes back to find a place for it--

Hangs it up and takes another hanger for his own coat--

DONNA
(O.S. over this)
Ernesto's... why?

SCOTT
(O.S.)
What is that... like Continental... Italian... what?

DONNA
(O.S.)
Italian...

73 LIVING ROOM

SCOTT

glances nervously upstairs--
Donna notices--

SCOTT
Great... what you order?

DONNA
Fettucini...

LUCAS
What's with you, buddy, you don't eat anything but burgers...?

SCOTT
I've been getting more into the food thing lately. From a consumer viewpoint.

Donna looks at him--
Wondering what this is all about--

DONNA
I'm going to see if your sister needs any help with her outfits...

Scott tries to stop her--

SCOTT
Dessert, mom... what'd you guys have for dessert...?

Donna starts upstairs--

BONNIE

is just coming down--
She looks flustered--

BONNIE
Hi... how was dinner?

Scott looks at her--
Expects a sign that things went O.K.--

BONNIE
Scott, is there any of that Quick left?

She gives him a look--
Like she's got to talk to him--

SCOTT
Yeah... in the kitchen... Want me to fix it for you?

BONNIE
I'll go with you...

The kids start for the kitchen--

Donna and Lucas watch them go--

LUCAS
I thought he wasn't talking to her.

DONNA
I asked him to be nice until her birthday...

She watches--
Knows they're up to something--

74 THE KITCHEN

Scott has the closet open and a glass of milk poured--

SCOTT
Did you get him out O.K.?

He doesn't let her answer---

SCOTT
Chocolate or strawberry?

BONNIE
I don't know. Chocolate. He's gone... he wasn't in the shower.

SCOTT
No shit?

BONNIE
He's got to be hiding somewhere in the house, Scott.

SCOTT
You sure he didn't just bail?

BONNIE
The bedroom window's locked. I already checked. He's hiding, like he thinks this is some kind of joke.

SCOTT
Joke's going to be on you if Dad catches him.

A pause--
Scott takes the Quick out--

SCOTT
You sure you don't want to try Strawberry?

BONNIE
Scott!

SCOTT
Right.
(he stirs in chocolate)
So what do we do?

He hands her the drink--

BONNIE
Wait 'til they go to bed, I guess. Then try to find him.

She takes a sip--
Still looks frantic--

CUT TO:

75 INT. LUCAS AND DONNA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Lucas is in bed, staring at the pages of a magazine--
Donna comes in from their bathroom--
She's in a nightgown--

DONNA
The cat hasn't come back. I hope she's all right.

Lucas nods--
He's distracted--

She gets into bed next to him--

The PHONE RINGS!!!

Lucas answers it--

LUCAS
Yeah...

JENKE
(over the phone)
Hello, cop...

Lucas' hand tenses on the phone--

JENKE
(over the phone)
Got something for you in the basement...

Lucas is pretty sure he's losing his mind--
He stares at the receiver in his hand a moment--

Hangs up the phone--

DONNA
Who [redacted] are you calling?

LUCAS
(distracted)
... wrong number...

She rolls over to face him--
Puts a hand tentatively across his chest--
He just stares at the ceiling--

Doesn't even move her hand away--

DONNA
Luke...

He doesn't answer--
Rolls over away from her--

He lies in a sleeping position--
But his eyes are wide open--

[redacted]

CUT TO:

[redacted]

[redacted]

76 UPSTAIRS HALLWAY-- LATER (The house is dark--

Bonnie's door opens slowly--
She comes out, dressed in her nightgown--

STAY CLOSE ON HER as she moves quietly past her parents' door--

Past the bathroom--

To Scott's room--

She's about to open the door when it opens--

SCOTT

comes out--
He's dressed--
He's got a flashlight--

He scared Bonnie--
Now he smiles at her--
Flourishes the light--

SCOTT
(whispers)
Let's go...

The two of them start down the stairs--
WE STAY WITH THEM--

It's late and the house is dark and quiet--

They move carefully--
Trying not to wake their parents up--

77 HALLWAY

They look around--

BONNIE
(whispering)
Vinnie... where are you, Vinnie...

Bonnie sees the hall closet--
Looks at Scott--
He shrugs--

They move to the closet--
Open the door--

Nothing in there but clothes--

They look at each other--

BONNIE
Check the kitchen and the laundry room... if he's not there, we'll try the back porch.

SCOTT
He might have just left, you know...

BONNIE
(shakes her head)
He likes me too much... and he was too horny...

SCOTT
I don't want to hear about this...

BONNIE
Right, Worm. Let's check the kitchen...

They start for the kitchen--
Moving past the basement door--

[redacted]

78 MASTER BEDROOM

Lucas still awake--
He rolls over and faces the phone--
He picks it up--

LUCAS
(very quietly)
Hello....?

After a moment he hangs it up--
Gets out of bed, pulls on his pants--

79 **THE LAUNDRY ROOM/KITCHEN**

Bonnie opens the door--
Behind her, Scott is poking in the kitchen--
Checking the broom closet--

Bonnie turns on the light--
The bulb is out--
The room stays dark--

BONNIE
Vinnie...

She looks at the shadows around her--
The washer and dryer and the space between them--
There's room to hide in there--

There is also a laundry bin built into a wall--
It's big--
He could be in there--

Bonnie pulls it open--
Nothing but dirty clothes--
She sticks her hands in them--

Digs deep--

Finally she gives up--
Turns back to the washer and dryer, and that dark space between them--

She bends to look in the space--

BONNIE
Vinnie...?

She comes closer--

Sticks her head into the dark space--

THERE IS THE SOUND OF SOMEONE COMING DOWN THE STAIRS!!!

It startles her--

She pulls back out of the space--
Turns--

Scott comes in from the kitchen--

SCOTT
Shit on a shingle!

BONNIE
What?

SCOTT
Dad's coming downstairs.

She follows him into the kitchen--

They hide behind the door, look out at--

80 STAIRS

LUCAS

comes down the stairs--

He hesitates by the basement door--
Like he doesn't want to give in to his craziness--
[redacted]

He opens the door--
Starts down the stairs--

81 INT. KITCHEN

SCOTT AND BONNIE

look at each other--

SCOTT
Why's he going down there?

She shakes her head--

Scott starts into the hall--
Moves to stand by the basement door--
Crouches to listen--

Bonnie hesitates, then follows him--

82 THE BASEMENT -- LUCAS' P.O.V.

COMING DOWN toward the furnace

LUCAS

Not sure what to expect--

He arrives at the bottom of the stairs and pauses, waiting to let his eyes adjust to the darkness--
Then looks around--

There is nothing to see--
Just piles of boxes and clothes, dark shapes--
No Vinnie--

A SOUND behind him causes Lucas to turn--

It is the door to the furnace--
Slowly swinging open--
The flames come up full--

Lucas backs away instinctively, to a post beside the stairs--

A VOICE comes out of the darkness--

VINNIE (O.S.)
(timid)
Uh, Mr. McCarthy...? It's me... Vinnie.

Lucas looks to the rack of old clothes beside him--
He reaches over and pushes against a sleeve to part the clothing--

THE SLEEVE COMES ALIVE--

A HAND swings out of the darkness toward him--

A hand holding a cleaver--

Lucas ducks out of its way--

The cleaver lodges in the post right where Lucas' head just was--

And JENKE FOLLOWS THE HAND, rushing out from the clothing right at--

LUCAS

backing away madly--
Knocks against every bit of junk that's been stacked down here--

Suitcases fall--
Boxes full of extra pots and pans--
Tools--
Bottles--

83 KITCHEN

Bonnie looks at Scott--

SCOTT
Sounds like Dad found Vinnie.

The SOUNDS of something else falling--

BONNIE
I hope he's not going to hurt him...

Suddenly there is SILENCE--

Bonnie runs to the basement door--

BONNIE
Dad, did you find Vinnie....?

LUCAS

appears at the bottom of the stairs--
Looks up at her--

DONNA

comes downstairs--
the racket woke her up--

DONNA
What's going on here. What about Vinnie?

BONNIE
I... let Vinnie come over while you guys were out. He was in the shower when you came home... I don't know what happened to him after that. Scott and I figured he was hiding so we were looking for him. I guess Dad caught him in the basement...

DONNA
(to Lucas)
Is he down there...

LUCAS (coming up)
You better call the police... tell them we need an ambulance too...

BONNIE
An ambulance! What did you do to him!!!

She starts for the basement--
He puts his arm in front of the door--

There's blood on his arm--

BONNIE
Jesus, daddy... WHAT'D YOU DO?

And she pushes past him--
Starts down the basement stairs--

LUCAS
DAMN IT BONNIE! DON'T GO DOWN THERE.

It's too late--
She's already downstairs--

He hurries after her--

Donna and Scott follow--

86 THE BASEMENT

As the three of them come up behind him--
Look down at--

BONNIE

crouched by the furnace [redacted]--
There's [redacted] nothing There--
Just that spot that Donna found--
The one that might be blood--

BONNIE
Daddy...

LUCAS

stares at the empty floor--
Then he looks up to where the cleaver should be--

It's gone too--
But there's the gash it made in the wood--

He runs his finger along it--
He turns to Donna--
Quietly, almost like he was talking to himself, he says--

LUCAS
He was there... ~~he was dead on the floor.~~ I know I saw him...

Donna looks nervously from Lucas to the kids--
She doesn't want them to see him like this--

DONNA
Nothing's happened to Vinnie. Everything's all right... your father's just had a hard day...

LUCAS
(He doesn't want to be crazy)
Tell me how a hard day is why I got [redacted] blood all over me...

DONNA
You cut your arm when you fell...

She glances at the kids again--

DONNA
You kids go upstairs...

BONNIE
I want to call Vinnie...

DONNA
It's late, honey... you'll wake up his whole family...

She can see by the look on Bonnie's face that she won't be happy until she calls--

She nods--
The kids start upstairs--

STAY ON THEM--

Bonnie looks at her brother--
Scott shakes his head--

SCOTT
I hate to say this, but the man is not playing with all six strings on his guitar.

They move out of the basement--

DONNA

looks at her husband--

DONNA
Lucas... I'm really worried about you.

He holds his hand/ looks around--

LUCAS
we shouldn't stay here.

DONNA
Let me put a bandage on that.

They start upstairs--

87 ~~[redacted]~~ KITCHEN

Bonnie and Scott by the phone--

Bonnie just hanging up--

She looks up as her mom and dad come up out of the basement--
She looks worried--

BONNIE
His mom says he's not home yet.

DONNA
You can try him again in the morning...
(a beat)
... and Bonnie... I told you I didn't want Vinner here while we were out.
You're grounded next weekend, young lady...

BONNIE
Mom...

DONNA
No arguments... understand....?

Bonnie nods--
She heads upstairs--
Followed by Scott--

Donna turns and looks at Lucas for a long moment--
There is too much to say, and so, nothing to say--
She goes upstairs--

Lucas goes to the basement door--
He locks it, turning a deadbolt, and fastens a chain across it--

Then he steps back and just stares at the door--

88 BASEMENT

Still night--

CAMERA PANS across the rubble, the upset boxes, suitcases, tools--

The wooden post by the bottom of the stairs still bears the gash of Jenke's cleaver--

Then we see a shoe--
Lost or discarded--
Unmistakably one of Vinnie's--

O.S. the furnace comes up full flame--

CAMERA STOPS at a basement window, across the room--
Hanging open on its hinges--

89 INT. THE KITCHEN -- DAY

Lucas counts eighteen candles onto a huge white cake--

Donna pours herself a cup of coffee--

Bonnie comes into the kitchen--
She looks sad--

DONNA
Did you try to call Vinnie again, honey?

BONNIE
No answer.

DONNA
Maybe he'll show up...

BONNIE
(shaking her head)
You might as well cut the cake. He's not coming.

BONNIE
Call your brother...

Scott's coming in--

SCOTT
Don't bother... I'm here...

Lucas has the candles lit--

~~[redacted]~~ DONNA
Make yourself useful then... get the lights.

Scott does this--

The candles light the family as Lucas turns with the cake--
He carries ~~[redacted]~~ into the ~~[redacted]~~ dining room--

Donna and the kids SING--

Lucas joins in--

Donna holds a big knife in a glass--

Lucas sets the cake down on the table--
Everyone crowds around as Bonnie makes a wish--
Blows out her candles--
She gets them all--
Her family CHEERS--

Scott turns on the lights--
Donna hands Bonnie the knife--

She smiles--
Holds the knife up to the big white cake--

The others watch, waiting--

Bonnie pushes the blade down in the cake--

THE CAKE BLEEDS!!!

SCOTT
GROSS ME OUT!!!

The cake falls open--

Bonnie looks at it in horror--

There is the bloody carcass of a cat inside--

Same coloring and markings as Cosmo--
She looks like she's been butchered--

Bonnie SCREAMS--

DONNA
Jesus Christ, Lucas...

LUCAS
I didn't do this. What are you talking about?

DONNA
Who did? God damn it!

He stares at her--
He can't answer--
His face is confused--
His jaw tightens--

Scott has picked up the dead cat--

SCOTT
Wo, this is gnarly... Someone hacked the cat in half.

DONNA
Scott, you're upsetting your sister.

SCOTT
Must have used a meat cleaver...

DONNA
SCOTT!!

Lucas' face has gone rigid--

LUCAS
GET RID OF THAT DAMN THING!!!

Lucas' arm shoots out in a quick, sweeping motion--
Bringing his hand down hard onto the cat--
And--

ANOTHER ANGLE

The cake--
A perfectly ordinary, white birthday cake--
Except that Lucas' hand is now smushed deep into it--
Ruining it--

There is no cat--
There is no blood--

And Lucas' family now stares at him in stunned silence--

DONNA
(finally)
Kids, go upstairs...

Bonnie and Scott slowly stand, watching their parents--

DONNA
GO... NOW!!!

They leave--

Donna turns back to Lucas--
She waits for an explanation--
Which doesn't come--

She picks up the cake and goes into the kitchen--

After a beat, Lucas silently follows--

91 KITCHEN

Donna is at the sink, cleaning up, her back to the dining room--

Lucas enters and stands in the doorway--

Donna senses his presence, but doesn't turn around--

Finally, she just stops what she's doing--
Doesn't turn around--
And starts to cry--

DONNA
Lucas, come back. Please come back.

LUCAS
Honey...

DONNA
It's like you're not here. You're somewhere else. I look at you and I don't know you any more. I'm scared, Luke.

LUCAS
(a beat)
So am I.

She composes herself--
Then turns around to face him--

DONNA
I'm taking the kids out of here.
(a beat)
I love you, Lucas... I really do... but I can't let the kids stay in this house... with you... YOU NEED HELP, LUKE...

He turns away--
He knows she's right--

He puts his hand to the wall--
Doesn't look at her as he says--

LUCAS
I know...

92 INT. DR. TOWER'S OFFICE -- DAY

Lucas and Dr. Tower talking--

LUCAS
I need to know what's happening up here!

He hits his head with the palm of his hand--

LUCAS
I'm seeing things that aren't there. I might be doing weird shit. My wife's ready to leave me... I...I don't want to hurt my kids... Am I crazy....?

DR. TOWER
You're not having a good day...

LUCAS
Just tell me something that makes sense! I mean, if I can fucking burn myself, and not know about it, I want to know what the fuck else I might be doing!

DR. TOWER
Did you take any of the pills I prescribed?

Lucas sits back in his chair--
Frustrated--
Confused--

Dr. Tower gets up from behind his desk and steps over to a door in the back wall--
He goes through it--

Lucas sits, waiting--

The lights dim momentarily--

Lucas looks up--

Still, Dr. Tower does not return--

Lucas stands and walks to the door through which Dr. Tower disappeared--

He opens the door--

LUCAS' P.O.V.

The Execution Room at the prison where Jenke was electrocuted--

The room is empty--
A hooded corpse sits in the chair--

TOWER'S OFFICE

as Lucas steps back into the room and closes the door--
He looks around the empty office, then goes to Dr. Tower's desk--

He gazes down at the open appointment book--

CLOSE UP - APPOINTMENT BOOK

At four o'clock is written: Lucas McCarthy--

Beneath that, way down the page, is entered: Midnight - Meat Packing Plant--

ON LUCAS

staring at this entry--

CUT TO:

EXT. THE McCARTHY HOUSE -- NIGHT

It is late--
The lights are off inside--

INT. LUCAS' BEDROOM

A breeze moves the curtains of an open window--
O.S. a small girl is CRYING, CALLING for help--

In the bed Lucas is asleep, tossing fitfully--
He wakes up, looks over at Donna--

She is not there--

Lucas gets out of bed--
Pulls on pants, shirt and shoes--
He crosses to the closet, opens the door--

The gun is gone--

The girl CRIES for help--

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Lucas comes out into the hallway--
He goes to Bonnie's room--
He opens the door--

BONNIE'S BEDROOM

She isn't there--

SOMETHING IS MOVING ON THE BED--
BENEATH THE COVERS--

Lucas crosses slowly to the bed--
Reaches out--
Pulls back the covers--

An ENORMOUS SPIDER, as big as a dog--
Stops moving--
Looks up at Lucas--
HISSES--

On the bed beside the spider, the overturned box of condoms--
Individual packets and unraveled prophylactics spread out upon the sheet--

Lucas backs away from the bed--

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

LUCAS

closes Bonnie's bedroom door--
Moves carefully down the hall to Scott's room--
Opens the door--
Goes inside--

SCOTT'S BEDROOM

Empty--
Headphones on top of the pillow, blaring heavy metal--

Lucas crosses to the bed--
Reaches down to turn off the Walkman on the bedside table and sees--

On the table, an opened packet of Nestle's Quick and a box of Cream of Wheat--
Between them something dark and furry--
Lucas picks it up--

A dead rat--

He puts the rat down and moves away--
The girl CRIES OUT faintly--

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

LUCAS

comes out of Scott's room and makes his way down the stairs--

LIVING ROOM

LUCAS

comes into the middle of the room--
Everything is dark and still--

LUCAS
(quietly)
Donna....?
(a beat)
Bonnie....?

SOMETHING CRASHES TO THE GROUND!!

Lucas whirls--

The pieces of the shattered vase lie on the floor--

But the cat is nowhere to be seen--

LUCAS
Cosmo...?

THE GIRL CRIES OUT AGAIN--

KITCHEN

Lucas enters the dark kitchen--

GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)
Help me, mister. Please...

He turns toward the voice, toward the basement door--

O.S. a faint CLINKING SOUND--

CLOSE UP - BASEMENT DOOR

The chain has been unfastened--
It is swinging slightly--
Clinking--

LUCAS

moves slowly to the basement door--
Opens it--

BASEMENT

Lucas forces himself down the stairs--
He crouches in front of the furnace and waits--

THERE IS A LOUD WHOOSH as the FURNACE BLAZES TO LIFE--

Lucas finds the rag on the floor and uses it to open wide the furnace door--

Lucas' face glistens with sweat--
The flames dance off it--
He closes his eyes--

CAMERA MOVES INTO THE FLAMES

EXT. MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT -- NIGHT

WE PAN THE NEIGHBORHOOD--

Past the deserted packing plant--
Past the all night diner, lights on inside--

To Lucas and Casey standing at the entrance of the alleyway--

Casey is slightly winded--
Lucas is not--
He is dressed as last seen - pants, shirt, shoes, no gun--

They look around--

CASEY
Did you call for back-up?

Lucas doesn't respond--

CASEY
Maybe you better try again... Tell them we're not shutting off car alarms here!

GIRL
(CALLING, OVER)
He's got me... please help me.

There's fear behind Casey's "cop mask"--

CASEY
Sounds like they're in the diner. You take the fire escape, see if you can get in up top. I'll hit the front door.
(a beat)
You O.K., partner?

Pause--
Lucas shakes his head--
He's not O.K.--

CASEY
Me neither..
(a beat)
Lucas....? Don't leave me hanging.

LUCAS
(turning)
Casey, I...

Casey is gone--

LUCAS

takes a deep breath--
He starts down the street on the far side of the diner--

A huge, ghost-like shadow is silhouetted against the side of the packing plant across the street--

The shadow of an enormous man, dragging a small girl along with him--

Lucas pulls himself back against a wall--

THE GIRL CALLS OUT AGAIN!!!

Lucas spots the fire escape across from him--

His face is determined--
He's not going to let the fear get the best of him--
He pulls himself up--
Starts to climb--

A window opens above the kitchen of the diner--

He tries it--
Locked--

It's a long drop to the floor below--

INT. DINER KITCHEN

Lucas makes the jump, through the glass, rolling to the floor--

He lies there a moment listening--
Then gets to his feet--

Everything is as it has been--
The woman's legs sticking up out of the huge rotating blender--

"WHOOSH-CLUMP... WHOOSH-CLUMP..."--

The cook's face boiling in the skillet of oil--

The WHISTLE and sudden burst of steam from the pressure cooker--

And then--

CASEY (O.S.)
LUUUUU...CAAAS.

Lucas runs through the double doors out of the kitchen and into--

THE DINING AREA

He's too late--

Casey's headless corpse sits at the counter--
His severed head is set on the plate in front of him--
His mouth jammed open and his badge stuffed in it--

Lucas buries his face in his hands--

CASEY'S VOICE
Lucas...

Lucas looks up, looks around...

CASEY'S VOICE
Listen to me...

The head isn't moving, but the sound is coming out of its mouth--
Lucas stares--

CASEY'S VOICE
It wasn't your fault. I was the coward. I sent you up the fire escape because I was sure that's where Jenke was. I walked right into his trap... There was nothing you could have done, Lucas...

The head, as if in slow motion, tips off the plate and rolls onto the counter--
The badge falls out of its mouth--
The eyes turn downward--
And now the lips move--

CASEY
Please, Lucas... Kill the motherfucker.

Lucas steps warily up to the corpse still sitting on the stool--
He reaches inside the jacket and withdraws Casey's pistol--

EXT. STREET

Lucas comes out of the diner--
Heads across the street to the meat-packing plant--

He slips through the hole in the fence and comes to--

THE NIGHT WATCHMAN

His head slumped forward over the ice-pick in his throat--

LUCAS

reaches out and, with the barrel of Casey's pistol, lifts the head of the Night Watchman--

His cap falls off--
Long hair tumbles down--

It is a WOMAN--
Beautiful--
A ghastly smile frozen on her face in death--

INT. PACKING PLANT

Very dark--

Lucas comes in, looks around--
Turns at every noise--

GIRL'S VOICE
(CALLING, OVER)
Mister. Help.

Lucas goes to the metal stairs--
Starts to ascend--
Comes onto the catwalk--

He passes several doorways off to the side--
He stops at one of them--

SMALL ROOM

Dr. Tower is sitting in a stuffed armchair--
Reading a book--

LUCAS
Dr. Tower?

DR. TOWER
(looking up)
Donna called me this morning.
She's worried about you.

Dr. Tower talks as if he were standing in Lucas' living room--

Lucas blinks hard--
Rubs his forearm across his eyes--

LUCAS
What time is it?

DR. TOWER
About midnight.
(a beat)
This is for keeps, Lucas.

LUCAS
What is?

DR. TOWER
Did you notice? No helicopters.
No walkie-talkie.
(another beat)
He's giving you a chance to go
through this again...

LUCAS
Why?

DR. TOWER
Because he doesn't think you've
got the guts.

Lucas is about to ask something--
But then he hears--

GIRL'S VOICE
(CALLING, OVER)
Mister. Please. Help.

LUCAS
Where's my family?

DR. TOWER
You'd better find them.

Pause--

LUCAS
Where is he?

DR. TOWER
(a beat)
You know.

LUCAS

steps out of the room--
Looks down the catwalk--
To the door--
The door where he'd confronted Jenke before--

He looks back into the room--

Dr. Tower is gone--
The armchair is gone--

CATWALK

Lucas walks toward the door--
Step by step--
Ringing through the ominous silence--

Closer, closer, then--

He's in the doorway--

He's face to face with Jenke!

The hair is gone from where the electrodes were attached--
The skin charred and raw--

Jenke opens his mouth--
And calls out in BONNIE'S VOICE--

JENKE
(as Bonnie)
Help me, Daddy, please help me!

He tosses the girl's head at Lucas--

LUCAS

fumbles, catching it--
Staggers back against the catwalk railing--

IT IS BONNIE'S HEAD!!!

Lucas gapes in horror--
Lifts Casey's pistol--
Squeezes the trigger--

CLICK!

Jenke ROARS with LAUGHTER--
Rears back--
Throws his cleaver at Lucas--

The cleaver cuts deep into Lucas' chest--
He sinks to the ground--

Darkness closes in fast--

Lucas turns away from Jenke--
Away from that awful grin--

And now he is face to face with Bonnie's head--
Her eyes closed--

THE SCREEN IS ALMOST BLACK NOW--

BONNIE'S VOICE
(distant)
Daddy! Daddy! Don't leave me!

Her lips aren't moving--
Could it be Jenke?

BONNIE'S VOICE
(growing fainter)
Daddy!! Daddy!!!

Suddenly the slow fade to black stops--

THE SCENE COMES BACK.

LUCAS

lifts his head--
Then sits up--
Slowly, painfully--

He looks around--
Jenke is nowhere to be seen--

FOOTSTEPS ECHO, off somewhere--

Lucas feels, sees the cleaver still in his chest--
Reaches up with both hands--
And pulls--
Hard--

GASPING IN PAIN--

The cleaver comes loose--
Blood pours out after it--

LUCAS

Sweating, hyperventilating--
Gets to his knees--

LUCAS
(muttering)
No way I die...

He pauses--
Throws his head back and HOLLERS--

LUCAS
THERE'S NO FUCKING WAY I DIE!!!

He reaches for his daughter's head--
Gently picks it up--
Then struggles to his feet--

With the head cradled in his left arm--
And the cleaver gripped in his right hand--
Lucas slowly advances along the catwalk--

Taut--
Coiled inside--
Ready for Jenke--

A DOORWAY

Up ahead--

Lucas approaches warily--
Hugging the wall--

SCOTT'S VOICE
(CALLING, OVER)
Dad! Help! He's in here!!!

Sounds like it's coming from the other side of the doorway--

LUCAS

raising his right hand--

Suddenly he swings himself out from the wall--
Pivots swiftly around the near jamb--

And through the doorway into--

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

--of his own house!

LUCAS

looks around--
Surprised, but not disoriented--

He listens--
The house is quiet--
Dark--

Lucas moves carefully down the hall to--

HIS BEDROOM

He stops in the doorway--

LUCAS
Donna?

She is sitting on the edge of the bed, facing away from him--

She turns--
Looks up at him--
Her face a study in despair--

DONNA
(seeing Bonnie's head)
You found her...

LUCAS
Where's Scott?

She looks at him a moment--

DONNA
You're too late...

Then lifts up something off the bed beside her--

SCOTT'S HEAD!

LUCAS
(stunned)
What--?

DONNA
BECAUSE YOU WERE GONE, LUCAS!
YOU LEFT US!

LUCAS
(a beat; quietly)
I thought you were leaving...

DONNA
We can't leave!... He's here...

LUCAS
Where?

DONNA
Downstairs. We can't escape.

Lucas looks over his shoulder--
Then steps into the room--
Holds out his daughter's head to her mother--

Donna takes it and, MOANING, presses it to her bosom--

Lucas backs out of the room--

UPSTAIRS HALL

and heads for the front stairs--

DOWNSTAIRS - FIRST FLOOR

as Lucas moves through the front hall, the living room, dining room, study--
The entire ground floor of the big, old house--

Until he comes to--

THE KITCHEN

With a quick glance around, Lucas turns to the basement door--

It is closed--

The chain, unfastened is still swinging slightly--
Clinking softly--

O.S. A CAT MEOWS--

It sounds like it's coming from inside the basement--

Then, faintly at first, but growing louder--
We head a steady "WHOOSH-CLUMP... WHOOSH-CLUMP..."--

And the SIZZLE of something burning in boiling oil--

The cat MEOWS LOUDER to be heard--
The basement door starts to RATTLE--
As from something on the other side trying to get out--

Then a SHARP, RISING WHISTLE, as of steam bursting from a pressure cooker--

LUCAS

turns to the side in time to see--

A SHADOWY FIGURE--
Entering silently from the dining room--
Stepping into the light--

It's Donna--

Her hands upraised--
Palms outward--
Blood streaming from her wrists--

A knife still clutched in one hand--

DONNA
IT'S OVER, LUCAS! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!!

With the knife she opens a cut across her face--
From temple to chin--
Diagonally across the cheek--
Identical to the one Jenke had given himself the night he was captured--

LUCAS
DONNA! NO...!

He throws his arms around her--
To stop her--
To hold her to him--

While behind him--

THE BASEMENT DOOR STARTS TO SWING OPEN!!!

DONNA
YES, LUCAS! YES!!

Some instinct causes Lucas to glance back over his shoulder--
To see the door--
Without letting go of his wife--

And when he turns back to her--

SHE HAS BECOME JENKE!!!

In his arms--
With her hair--
And her voice--

JENKE
(as Donna)
OH, YES...

HE ROARS--
Blood flowing from the fresh cut on his cheek--

And he's got Lucas--
His arms enfolding him--
His paw reaching for the cleaver in Lucas' hand--

The cleaver goes up in the air--

The two men struggle for it--
Good and evil straining for the same object--

And with both hands still on it--

THE CLEAVER SUDDENLY SLICES DOWNWARD--

AND SEVERS JENKE'S HEAD FROM HIS BODY!!!

JENKE'S HEAD

hits the floor--
Now without Donna's hair--

THE BODY

crumples beside it--
Dead--

LUCAS

kneels--
Returns the cleaver to Jenke's lifeless hand--
And stares--

AS THE BODY, HEAD AND CLEAVER FADE AWAY--

JUST DISAPPEAR...

BASEMENT DOOR

Cosmo comes out of the basement--
Strolls over to Lucas--
Idle--
Curious--

LUCAS

picks the cat up--
Just kneels there panting--
Stroking the cat--

DONNA, BONNIE & SCOTT

come into the kitchen from upstairs--
Wearing bathrobes, nightgowns, pajamas, etc.--
They've just woken up--

And they look concerned--
Having heard a lot of crashing and banging downstairs--

LUCAS

looks up at them--

LUCAS
I've found the cat...

BONNIE
(rushing forward)
Cosmo!!!

She picks him up--
Makes a big fuss--

SCOTT
(turning away)
Big deal.

DONNA

looking at her husband--
Sensing the change that has come over him--
And--

LUCAS

returning her gaze--
Suddenly overcome with emotion--

He's back.

DISSOLVE TO:

136 EXT. THE HOUSE -- DAY

There is a moving van in the driveway--
Lucas loading a couch into the already stuffed truck with Scott--

LUCAS
O.K. careful with that... bring your end up...

Scott does--

Bonnie and Donna come out of the house with boxes--

Lucas stands on the back of the truck--
Wipes his brow--
Smiles at Donna--

LUCAS
I hope that's it. We're just about full up.

DONNA
I think that's everything.

BONNIE
I've got one more box of clothes in the basement. Got room?

LUCAS
Just barely.

BONNIE
I'll get the box...

Her parents watch as she starts back inside the house--

A STATION WAGON

Drives up--
A middle aged PUBLIC RELATIONS TYPE climbs out of the wagon--
Comes over to them--

P.R.
Mr. McCarthy?

LUCAS
Yes...

P.R.
Scott McCarthy...

Lucas looks at his son--

137 BASEMENT STAIRS

Bonnie is going down the basement stairs--

HER P.O.V.

The basement is "normal"--

Empty--
Even the pilot light out now in the furnace--

There's a cardboard box of clothes on the floor.

Bonnie bends to pick it up--

And sees--

Vinnie's shoe--
She picks it up--
Wondering--

Then drops it and heads back upstairs with her box of clothes--

138 THE DRIVEWAY

P.R. has the back of his wagon down--
Scott and his parents are standing with him--

The entire back of the van is full of cartons marked "UNCLE TEX'S CHILI"

P.R.
I've been with Uncle Tex fifteen years now, and we've never had anything like this happen, son. Uncle Tex wanted me to give you his personal apology and to tell you that he has personally inspected the hands of every Uncle Tex's employee... They all got two good ones, and Uncle Tex wanted you to have his personal assurance that the object you found in our chili simply could not have been a human thumb...

Donna shoots Lucas a look--
Can you believe our kid--

P.R.
Uncle Tex hopes you'll accept this five year supply of our chili with his compliments, and if you're ever down Texas way, you be sure and look him up personally...

Scott smiles--

Lucas frowns--
Then is distracted by--

Another car pulling up on the street--
Dr. Tower gets out--
Wanders over--

DR. TOWER
Lucas...

Smiling--
They shake hands--

LUCAS
Hey, Doc...

DR. TOWER
Getting ready to leave, huh?

LUCAS
Yeah...

DR. TOWER
How are you feeling?

LUCAS
I feel fine.

DR. TOWER
Listen, uh...

He leads Lucas away from the others--

DR. TOWER
Some woman came down to the station this morning to file a complaint against you. A Mrs. Capaletti....?

LUCAS
Never heard of her.

DR. TOWER
She's got a son named Vinnie... She claims you caught him in your basement late one night last week and beat the living crap out of him... That ring a bell?

LUCAS
No, I... Last week I was on the moon.

DR. TOWER
Yeah... He'd been in the hospital for three days... She finally got him to tell her what happened.
(a beat)
You don't even know who he is?

LUCAS
He's my daughter's boyfriend.

DR. TOWER
Ah... Well, it didn't get written up. I mean, somebody hiding in a basement late at night?

LUCAS
Jeez, I'm really sorry...

DR. TOWER
Aw, fuck it. He probably had it coming... Listen, I just... wanted to say goodbye.

They shake hands again.

DR. TOWER
Good luck to you. You're a hell of a cop... and a brave man. They don't always go together.
(drifting back to his car)
We're going to miss you.

LUCAS
Thanks, Doc... Thanks a lot...

He watches him get into his car--

O.S. A CAR HORN--

Lucas turns--
Sees his family in his car--
Waiting for him--

LUCAS

smiles--
Looks back at Dr. Tower before he pulls away--
Suddenly--

LUCAS
Hey! You want some chili?

FREEZE FRAME--

FADE OUT.